

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 119117
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:EHICKS
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ARA:GLISTER
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S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

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O 240112Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, US, ES

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON EL SALVADOR

REF: (A) STATE 98384 (B) STATE 105097 (C) STATE 106224
(D) STATE 107684

1. UNDER BY-LINE KAREN DE YOUNG, WASHINGTON POST MAY 22 EDITION CARRIED ARTICLE ENTITLED "CATHOLIC CHURCH, MILITARY DRAW BATTLE LINES IN EL SALVADOR". ARTICLE PRESENTS RATHER BALANCED GENERAL DEPICTION OF CURRENT TENSE SALVADORAN CLIMATE (E.G., PEASANT AND CHURCH FEELINGS; LIKELY EFFECTS ON TOURISM AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT; AND SPECIFICALLY, THE IDB CANCELLATION).

2. WE ARE PUZZLED, HOWEVER, BY ONE PORTION OF THE ARTICLE WHICH CTIES "A HIGH LEVEL EMBASSY OFFICIAL" AS STATING THAT
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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NOT PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR EMBASSY DEMANDS THAT THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATE THE RICHARDSON CASE. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY INACCURATE SINCE THE EMBASSY HAS ACTED UPON SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING DEMARCHES TO MAKE, CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES AND TENOR OF LANGUAGE TO BE USED. THE VOLUMINOUS TRAFFIC OF WHICH REFTELS ARE BUT A SAMPLE,

ATTEST TO DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVE POLICY ON RICHARDSON CASE.

MOST RECENTLY THE SUBJECT WAS SPECIFICALLY RAISED AGAIN
IN VERY STRONG TERMS WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER
RICARDO CASTENADA DURING HIS MEETING WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN LAST WEEK. (SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM
SUMMARIZING THIS CONVERSATION.) WE WOULD APPRECIATE
THE EMBASSY'S RESPONSE AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THIS
REPORTED STATEMENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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